

BOLL WEEVIL REGULATIONS

LOUISIANA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TITLE 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS PART XV. PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE CHAPTER 3. BOLL WEEVIL

Chapter 3. Boll Weevil

§301. Applicability of Regulations

A. These regulations are adopted pursuant to the authority granted in and for the purposes as stated in the Louisiana Boll Weevil Eradication Law, R.S. 3:1601-1617.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1608.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:17 (January 1995).

§303. Definitions Applicable to Boll Weevil

APHIS means the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

ASCS means the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, now known as FSA (Farm Service Agency).

Compliance Agreement means written agreement between the department and any person engaged in growing, dealing in or moving regulated articles wherein the latter agrees to comply with specified provisions to prevent dissemination of the boll weevil.

Cotton Acre means any acre of land devoted to the growing of cotton, regardless of row width or planting pattern.

Gin Trash means all material produced during the cleaning and ginning of seed cotton, bollies or snapped cotton, except lint, cottonseed or gin waste.

Penalty Fee means the fee assessed against a cotton producer for late reporting of acreage, underreporting of acreage or late payment of assessments. It does not refer to the assessment fee itself nor to any penalty assessed for any violation of the regulations.

Premises means any parcel of land, including any buildings located thereon, irrigation systems and any other similar locations where the boll weevil is, may be, or where conditions are conducive to supporting the boll weevil.

Seed Cotton means cotton as it comes from the field prior to ginning.

Used Cotton Equipment means any equipment used previously to harvest, strip, transport or process cotton.

Waiver means a written authorization which exempts a person from compliance with one or more requirements of these regulations and the Boll Weevil Eradication Law.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1608.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:17 (January 1995), amended LR 23:195 (February 1997).

§305. Regulated Articles

A. The following articles shall be regulated:

1. the boll weevil;
2. cotton plants and bolls;
3. gin trash;
4. seed cotton;
5. used cotton equipment;
6. any other products, articles, means of conveyance, or any other item or thing whatsoever which presents the possibility of spreading the boll weevil.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1608.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:18 (January 1995).

§307. Conditions Governing Movement and Handling of Regulated Articles

A. Certificate, Permit or Written Waiver Required

1. Regulated articles moving into, within or from the state of Louisiana shall be accompanied by a certificate or permit issued by an authorized regulatory official in the state where such articles originated, if such state is other than Louisiana, or by the commissioner.

2. Regulated articles may be moved into, within or from the state of Louisiana without a certificate or permit, if accompanied by documentation confirming the point of origin and a written waiver from the commissioner indicating that such movement is consistent with the boll weevil eradication program.

3. The certificate, permit or a written waiver shall be attached securely to the outside of the container in which the regulated articles are moved; or the certificate, permit or written waiver shall be attached to the shipping document, provided the document adequately describes the regulated articles being moved. Copies of all certificates, permits or written waivers shall be furnished by the carrier to the consignee at the final destination.

B. Issuance of Certificates and Permits

1. Certificates for movement of regulated articles may be issued by the commissioner when such articles:

- a. originated in noninfested premises in an eradication zone and have not been otherwise exposed to infestation; or
- b. have been treated to destroy infestation in accordance with procedures approved by the commissioner; or
- c. have been grown, manufactured, stored or handled in such a manner that, in the judgement of the commissioner, no infestation would be transmitted; or
- d. have been examined by the commissioner and found free from infestation.

2. Permits for movement of noncertified regulated articles may be issued by the commissioner allowing movement of such articles into, within or from the state of Louisiana in accordance with procedures approved by the commissioner, when the commissioner has determined that movement will not result in the spread of the boll weevil.

C. Granting, Cancellation and Proof of Certificates, Permits and Written Waivers

1. The granting of certificates, permits or written waivers by the commissioner is purely discretionary and any person claiming movement under the terms of a certificate, permit or written waiver shall have the burden of proof as to the issuance of any such certificate, permit or written waiver and any other related matter.

2. Any certificate, permit or written waiver may be canceled by the commissioner for good cause, including but not limited to, a determination that the holder thereof has failed to comply with any condition for the use of such certificate, permit, written waiver or with any terms or conditions of a compliance agreement or has obtained a certificate, permit or written waiver on falsified information.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1608.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:18 (January 1995).

§309. Compliance Agreements

A. The commissioner may, as a condition of issuance of certificates, permits or written waivers, require a compliance agreement stipulating expressed conditions of the certificate, permit or written waiver as required by the commissioner which may include but are not limited to:

1. safeguards against the establishment and spread of the boll weevil;
2. maintenance of identity, handling and subsequent movement of regulated articles;
3. requirements for cleaning and treating all means of conveyance and all containers used for transporting regulated articles;
4. any other condition deemed consistent with the purposes of the boll weevil eradication program.

B. Any compliance agreement may be canceled by the commissioner for good cause, including but not limited to a finding that the holder has failed to comply with any conditions of the agreement, and the commissioner may do so summarily and *ex parte* if he finds that public health, safety or welfare requires emergency action. Any compliance agreement may be canceled or voided by the commissioner upon a determination that the compliance agreement is no longer consistent with the purposes of the boll weevil eradication program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1608.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:18 (January 1995).

§311. Inspection, Movement and Enforcement

A. The commissioner is authorized to stop any person and inspect any regulated article or means of conveyance moving into, within or from the state of Louisiana when he has reason to believe that such regulated article or means of conveyance is infested with the boll weevil. The commissioner is authorized to issue a stop order on, seize or treat any regulated article found to be infested with the boll weevil moving in violation of the Boll Weevil Eradication Law or these regulations and may destroy or otherwise dispose of any infested cotton where the destruction of said cotton is necessary to effectuate the purposes of the boll weevil eradication program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1608.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:18 (January 1995).

§313. Purchase and Destruction of Cotton to Effectuate Program Objectives

A. When the commissioner deems the purchase of cotton necessary to effectuate the purposes of the boll weevil eradication program he shall make a written determination to purchase.

1. The written determination to purchase shall contain the reasons for the determination, the purchase price, and shall be mailed to or served upon the cotton producer.

2. The cotton producer shall promptly take all steps necessary to convey title to the commissioner. In the event the cotton producer fails to take all steps necessary to convey title to the commissioner within 10 days of receipt of determination to purchase, the commissioner may destroy the cotton, compensating the cotton producer for the purchase price less the loss of the resale price and cost of destruction. The purchase price shall be determined by appraisal, the appraisal shall have been completed within 72 hours of the mailing or issuance for service of the written determination to purchase, and the appraisal shall, to the extent practical, utilize the ASCS farm-established yield for the current year.

3. If the cotton producer does not accept the purchase price contained in the written determination to purchase, the purchase shall, nevertheless, be concluded as described herein but the cotton producer shall have the right to an appeal in the form of a hearing on the decision of price before the commission in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act provided the appeal is perfected in writing to the commissioner within 30 days of the receipt by the cotton producer of the written determination to purchase. The appeal shall contain a concise statement of the basis for the appeal, shall have attached a clear and readable copy of the written determination to purchase, and shall be mailed to or served upon the commissioner within the aforesaid prescribed time limit of 30 days.

B. Whenever the commissioner has reason to believe that the destruction of cotton is necessary to effectuate the purposes of the boll weevil eradication program he shall make a written determination of destruction.

1. The written determination of destruction shall contain the reason for the destruction, the payment to the cotton producer, if applicable, and shall be mailed to or served upon the cotton producer. The cotton producer shall take all steps necessary to cooperate with the commissioner in the destruction of the cotton. In the event the cotton producer fails to take all steps necessary to cooperate in the destruction of the cotton, the cotton producer shall be in violation of these regulations.

2. In those cases where payment to the cotton producer shall be due by the commissioner, the amount of payment shall be determined by appraisal, the appraisal shall have been completed within 72 hours of the mailing or issuance for service of the written determination of destruction, and the appraisal shall, to the extent practical, utilize the ASCS farm-established yield for the current year. If the cotton producer does not accept the payment contained in the written determination of destruction, the payment shall, nevertheless, be made as stated but the cotton producer shall have the right to an appeal in the form of a hearing on the amount of the payment before the commission in

accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act provided the appeal is perfected in writing to the commissioner within 30 days of the receipt by the cotton producer of the written determination of destruction. The appeal shall contain a concise statement of the basis for the appeal, shall have attached a clear and readable copy of the written determination of destruction, and shall be mailed to or served upon the commissioner within the aforesaid prescribed time limit of 30 days.

3. The notice provisions contained herein are in addition to those notice provisions contained in R.S. 3:1609(E).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1610.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:19 (January 1995).

§314. Boll Weevil Eradication Zone: Creation

A. There is hereby created an eradication zone which shall hereafter be known as the Red River Eradication Zone.

1. The Red River Eradication Zone shall consist of all those territories within the boundaries of the following parishes: Acadia, Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, Evangeline, Grant, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, St. Landry, St. Tammany, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana.

2. The effective date of the establishment of the Red River Eradication Zone shall be October 18, 1996.

B. There is hereby created an eradication zone which shall hereafter be known as the Louisiana Eradication Zone.

1. The Louisiana Eradication Zone shall consist of all those territories within the boundaries of all parishes in the state of Louisiana which are not within the Red River Eradication Zone.

2. The effective date of the establishment of the Louisiana Eradication Zone shall be July 15, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1609.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 23:195 (February 1997), amended LR 24:2231 (December 1998).

§315. Quarantine: Authority and Procedures

A. The commissioner is hereby authorized to issue Quarantine Orders to affected parties whenever he determines that a quarantine is necessary to effectuate the purposes of the boll weevil eradication program.

B. Quarantine Orders shall be written and shall describe with particularity the regulated articles or premises being quarantined, the nature of the restrictions on the regulated articles or premises, the reasons for the issuance of the Quarantine Order and the method for affected parties to seek a review of the order.

C. A Quarantine Order shall be issued for the purpose of preventing the movement, disturbance, or noncontainment of an actual or suspected boll weevil infestation or the prevention of a boll weevil infestation.

D. Any affected party may request and receive a hearing on the issuance and maintenance of a Quarantine Order before the commission in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act provided the affected party requests the hearing within 30 days of receipt by the affected party of notice of the Quarantine Order.

E. The notice provisions contained in this section are in addition to those notice provisions contained in R.S. 3:1609(E).

F. All persons and all parties affected by a quarantine shall cooperate in the affectation of the quarantine and shall do nothing to cause a breach of the terms of the Quarantine Order.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1608.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:19 (January 1995).

§317. Aiding and Abetting

A. Any person who aids and abets another person in any act or omission which constitutes a violation of the Boll Weevil Eradication Law or these regulations shall be in violation of the Boll Weevil Eradication Law and these regulations. Each act or omission of aiding and abetting shall be a separate offense and each day on which the underlying violation which was aided and abetted occurs shall also be a separate offense, but two violations may not result from one act or omission which occurred on a single day.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1612.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:20 (January 1995).

§319. Reporting of Cotton Acreage

A. All cotton producers growing cotton in the state of Louisiana shall complete a Cotton Acreage Reporting Form provided by the commissioner by April 15 or at sign-up of the current growing season, and shall submit the completed form to the ASCS office responsible for the parish or parishes in which they produce cotton. Such report shall be filed for each year of the program and shall include the intended acreage and location of cotton to be planted during the current growing season.

B. All cotton producers growing cotton in the state of Louisiana shall also complete a Cotton Acreage Reporting Form provided by the commissioner by the later of July 1 or at final certification of the current growing season, and shall submit the completed form to the ASCS office responsible for the parish or parishes in which they produce cotton. Such report shall be filed for each year of the program and shall include the actual acreage and location of cotton planted during the current growing season.

C. Noncommercial cotton shall not be planted in an Eradication Zone unless an application for a written waiver has been submitted in writing to the commissioner stating the conditions under which such written waiver is requested, and unless such written waiver is granted by the commissioner. The commissioner's decision to grant or deny a written waiver for noncommercial cotton shall include consideration of the location, size, pest conditions, accessibility of the growing area, any stipulations set forth in any

compliance agreement between the applicant and the commissioner, and any other factors deemed relevant to effectuate the boll weevil eradication program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1607, 1609.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:20 (January 1995), amended LR 23:195 (February 1997).

§321. Program Participation, Fee Payment and Penalties

A. Upon passage of the referendum, all cotton producers growing cotton in an eradication zone shall be required to participate in the eradication program.

B. Assessments on cotton producers in the eradication zones shall be levied as follows.

1. In the Red River Eradication Zone cotton producers shall each year, during the first five years of the program, submit to the ASCS office the annual assessment as set by the commission following the adjudicatory procedure of the Administrative Procedure Act, which assessment shall not exceed \$10 per acre the first year and \$35 per acre for each remaining year, for each acre of certified cotton acreage on file with ASCS.

2. In the Louisiana Eradication Zone cotton producers shall each year, during the first five years of the program, submit to the ASCS office the annual assessment as set by the commission following the adjudicatory procedure of the Administrative Procedure Act which assessment shall not exceed \$15 per acre for each year or a total of \$75 per acre.

3. A waiver of the assessment on any acre planted in cotton for a crop year may be requested and obtained in accordance with the following procedure.

a. A cotton producer may request a waiver of the assessment on any acre planted in cotton for a crop year if a written request for a waiver is received by the commission, through mail, fax or other form of actual delivery, on or before 4:30 p.m. on August 1 of the crop year for which the waiver is requested. A written request for a waiver will be deemed to be timely when the papers are mailed on or before the due date. Timeliness of the mailing shall be shown only by an official United States postmark or by official receipt or certificate from the United States Postal Service made at the time of mailing which indicates the date thereof. A fax shall be considered timely upon proof of the commission's receipt of the transmission.

b. The written request for a waiver must show the name of the cotton producer, the field number, the number of acres for which a waiver is requested, the date the acres were failed, the reasons the waiver is being requested and a certification that all living cotton plants and cotton stalks were destroyed prior to July 15 of the crop year and that the acreage will remain void of all living cotton plants through December 31 of the same crop year.

c. Each cotton producer who has timely filed a request for a waiver with the commission shall be notified of the date, time and place the commission is scheduled to consider the request for a waiver at least 10 days prior to the commission meeting.

d. The granting of a waiver is within the discretion of the commission.

e. A cotton producer, whose timely request for a waiver is denied by the commission, shall be entitled to pay his assessment without imposition of a per acre penalty fee if he pays the assessment within 30 days after receiving written notification of the commission's decision.

4. The Commission has the authority to inspect any cotton field in which a cotton producer has claimed to have destroyed their cotton crop. Failure of the cotton producer to allow inspection shall be a violation of these regulations.

C. Any cotton producer planting a fraction of an acre shall be assessed at a prorated assessment rate for that fractional acre.

D. Any cotton producer failing to file a completed Cotton Acreage Reporting Form by the later of July 1 or final certification of the current growing season shall, in addition to the assessment fee and other penalties provided in the Boll Weevil Eradication Law and these regulations, be subject to a penalty fee of \$2 per acre.

E. Any cotton producer failing to pay all assessments by the later of July 1 or final certification of the current growing season shall, in addition to the assessment fee and other penalties provided in the Boll Weevil Eradication Law and these regulations, be subject to a penalty fee of \$3 per acre.

F. Beginning with the second year of the program and continuing for subsequent years, any cotton producer whose ASCS certified acreage exceeds his reported acreage by more than 10 percent shall, for each ASCS certified acre in excess of that reported, be subject to a penalty fee of \$5 per acre in addition to the assessment fee, payable on or before September 1 of the current growing season.

G. Failure to pay all program costs, including assessments and penalty fees shall be a violation of these regulations. Any cotton growing on a cotton producer's acreage which is subject to the assessment shall be subject to destruction by the commissioner should said cotton producer fail to pay all program costs, including assessments and penalty fees, within 30 days of notification of the default.

H. The commission shall have the right to collect some or all of the program costs, including assessments and penalty fees, by contracting with another entity, public or private, for assessment collection. All cotton producers in an eradication zone shall be notified of such a decision by the commission.

I. Cotton producers shall destroy cotton stalks in every field location planted to cotton, on or before December 31 of each year. Cotton stalk destruction shall consist of shredding or disking to the extent of eliminating standing cotton stalks. Failure to destroy stalks by December 31 of each year shall be a violation of these regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1609, 1612, and 1613.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:17 (January 1995), amended LR 21:669 (July 1995), LR 23:195 (February 1997), LR 24:2231 (December 1998), LR 25:829 (May 1999).

§323. Expenditures

A. Expenditures, by the commissioner and the commission, for any and all costs related to the eradication of boll weevils shall be accomplished employing the procedures authorized and granted to the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1614, 1615.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:21 (January 1995).

§325. Voter Eligibility

A. A person shall be considered eligible to vote in a referendum if that individual shared in the cotton crop, or in the proceeds of the cotton crop, actually produced during the crop year in which the referendum is held. When in compliance with the above requirements the following shall be eligible to vote in a referendum:

1. farm operator;
2. owner-operator;
3. cash tenant;
4. landlord of a share tenant;
5. share tenant;
6. landlord of a cash tenant;
7. sharecropper.

B. A person shall not be eligible to vote in a referendum if that individual is under 18 years of age.

C. Voting by proxy, agent, or power of attorney is prohibited.

D. Each eligible voter shall be entitled to only one vote in each referendum.

E. The commission shall determine any questions of eligibility to vote.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1613.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 21:21 (January 1995).

§327. Boll Weevil Eradication Zones: Continuation, Program Participation, Fee Payment and Penalties

A. Upon passage of any referendum that continues a boll weevil eradication zone, all cotton producers growing cotton in the eradication zone shall be required to participate in the eradication program established for that zone.

B. Cotton producers in any boll weevil eradication zone continued by referendum, shall each year, submit to the FSA office the annual assessment as set by the commission in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, which assessment shall not exceed \$10 per acre for each year.

C. All of the provisions in §321.C-I of these regulations shall apply to each boll weevil eradication zone continued by referendum.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 3:1609, 1612, 1613.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, LR 27:280 (March 2001).